

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for digital image management, comprising:
 - receiving a digital image associated with a specific time;
 - ~~receiving-identifying a data-unit~~calendar entry comprising a topic associated with and
a time interval, the topic representing an event, a person, a geographic location, a logical
location, or an object; and
 - ~~associating the data-unit with the digital image when if the~~ corresponding time
interval ~~associated with the data-unit~~ includes the specific time;
 - automatically associating the calendar entry with the digital image; and
 - storing an association between the calendar entry and the digital image on a
computer-readable medium.
2. (Currently Amended) ~~A computer-implemented~~ The method of claim 1 for digital
image management, comprising:
 - receiving a digital image associated with a specific time;
 - identifying a wherein the received data-unit is a first data-unit calendar entry
comprising a first topic and and the time interval is a first time interval, the first topic
representing an event, a person, a geographic location, a logical location, or an object, the first
time interval ~~that includes~~ the specific time, the method further comprising;
 - ~~receiving-identifying a second data-unit~~ calendar entry comprising a second topic and
associated with a second time interval, the second topic representing an event, a person, a
geographic location, a logical location, or an object, the second time interval overlapping the

with the first time interval and including the specific time; ~~and~~

comparing the first topic with second topic or the first time interval with the second time interval, the comparison based upon configurable rules;

based upon the comparison, automatically selecting ~~which one~~ of the data units calendar entries to associate with the digital image, ~~the selecting being based on topics represented by the data units;~~ and

storing an association between the selected calendar entry and the digital image on a computer-readable medium.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein:

~~each data unit is a calendar entry that~~ further includes a note, the note including a classification for the topic represented by the calendar entry; and

~~the selecting is based on classifications of the topics represented by the data units~~ calendar entries.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~21~~, wherein:

~~the comparison~~ associating is based on configurable rules, ~~the rules including one or more of:~~

(a) if one calendar entry's time interval is longer than and totally overlaps the other calendar entry's time interval, the calendar entry having the longer time interval is designated to be a parent calendar entry of the calendar entry having the shorter time interval, and the parent calendar entry is associated with the image;

(b) if neither calendar entry's time interval lies completely within the other calendar entry's time interval, then the shorter calendar entry is split into a third and fourth calendar entry, the third calendar entry being the part overlapping the longer calendar entry and the fourth being the part not overlapping the longer calendar entry, then the longer calendar entry is designated to be a parent calendar entry of the third calendar entry, and the parent calendar entry is associated with the image;

(c) if the two time intervals are coextensive, then the calendar entry with a less

specific topic is designated to be a parent calendar entry of the calendar entry with a more specific topic, and the parent calendar entry is associated with the image; or

(d) so long as the two topics do not both represent geographic locations, both calendar entries are associated with the image.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein:
~~the data unit is a calendar entry; and~~
the storing of the associating association includes tagging the digital image with an identifier of the calendar entry.
6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein:
the digital image is stored in a file that includes a metadata field;
the calendar entry includes a label; and
the tagging includes storing the label in the metadata field.
7. (Canceled)
8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 57, wherein the rules specify that when the topic of the calendar entry represents one of a person and a geographic location, confirmation is to be requested before associating the digital image with the identifier.
9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving wherein the data unit is an image grade definable by user input, the image grade specifying a level of interest for the digital image;
associating the image grade with the digital image; and
storing an association between the image grade and the digital image on the computer-readable medium.
10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, further comprising:
receiving search criteria specifying a threshold grade; and

searching the computer-readable medium for digital images that have grades exceeding the threshold grade.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving wherein the data-unit is an image grade definable by user input, the image grade specifying a level of quality for the digital image;
associating the image grade with the digital image; and
storing an association between the image grade and the digital image on the computer-readable medium.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising:
receiving search criteria specifying a threshold grade; and
searching the computer-readable medium for digital images that have grades exceeding the threshold grade.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving wherein the data-unit is one of a text file, audio file or video file; and
associating the text file, audio file, or video file with the digital image.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving search criteria that specify the calendar entry data-unit; and
searching for digital images associated with the data-unit calendar entry.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein further comprising:
presenting a the data-unit is a link with in a the calendar entry, the link being configured to return any digital images associated with the calendar entry data-unit.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the data-unit is a calendar entry further that includes a note field, the method further comprising:
receiving user input specifying a topic; and
storing the user input into the note field.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A method for displaying images, comprising:
clustering images in an image library into groups, each image including a time stamp that indicates when the image was captured;
for each group, determining the number of images in the group and a time interval delimited by an earliest time stamp and a latest time stamp of images in the group;
for each group, determining a time scale for displaying the group, the determining being based on the number of images in the ~~eluster-group~~ and the time interval delimited by an earliest time stamp and a latest time stamp of images of the ~~eluster~~group; and
when an image of a ~~eluster-group~~ is selected, displaying other images of the ~~eluster~~group over a timeline having the time scale determined for displaying the ~~eluster~~group.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[18]]~~19, wherein:
the timeline is a calendar.

21. (Currently Amended) A computer-program product, tangibly stored on a ~~machine~~computer-readable medium, for digital image management, the product comprising instructions to cause a processor to:
receive a digital image associated with a specific time;
~~receive-identify a data-unit~~ calendar entry comprising a topic associated with and a
time interval, the topic representing an event, a person, a geographic location, a logical location,
or an object; and
~~associate the data-unit with the digital image when-if the~~ corresponding time interval
~~associated with the data-unit~~ includes the specific time;
automatically associate the calendar entry with the digital image; and
store an association between the calendar entry and the digital image on a second
computer-readable medium.

22. (New) A system for digital image management comprising:
means to receive a digital image associated with a specific time;
means to identify a calendar entry comprising a topic and a time interval, the topic representing an event, a person, a geographic location, a logical location, or an object; and
means to, if the corresponding time interval includes the specific time:
automatically associate the calendar entry with the digital image; and
store an association between the calendar entry and the digital image on a second computer-readable medium.

23. (New) A computer-program product, tangibly stored on a computer-readable medium, for displaying images, the product comprising instructions to cause a processor to:
cluster images in an image library into groups, each image including a time stamp that indicates when the image was captured;
for each group, determine the number of images in the group and a time interval delimited by an earliest time stamp and a latest time stamp of images in the group;
for each group, determine a time scale for displaying the group, the determination being based on the number of images in the group and the time interval delimited by an earliest time stamp and a latest time stamp of images of the group; and
when an image of a group is selected, display other images of the group over a timeline having the time scale determined for displaying the group.

24. (New) A system for displaying images comprising:
means to cluster images in an image library into groups, each image including a time stamp that indicates when the image was captured;
means to, for each group, determine the number of images in the group and a time interval delimited by an earliest time stamp and a latest time stamp of images in the group;
means to, for each group, determine a time scale for displaying the group, the determination being based on the number of images in the group and the time interval delimited by an earliest time stamp and a latest time stamp of images of the group; and

means to, when an image of a group is selected, display other images of the group over a timeline having the time scale determined for displaying the group.